

In the Claims

Please make the following amendments:

1. (currently amended) A method for resupplying reagents inventoried on-board an automatic clinical analyzer by:

averaging ~~the an~~ assay demand pattern placed upon the analyzer for assays over a sequence of single specifically defined time periods;

prior to ~~the a single~~ specifically defined time period ~~next~~ following the sequence of single specifically defined time periods, compare the averaged assay demand pattern with the reagents inventoried on-board the analyzer, thereby determining which reagents are forecast to be exhausted before the single specifically defined time period ~~next~~ following the sequence of single specifically defined time periods; and,

undertaking appropriate measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of reagents within the analyzer.

2. (currently amended) A method for resupplying standard chemical solutions inventoried on-board an automatic clinical analyzer by:

averaging ~~a the~~ calibration and control procedure demand pattern placed upon the analyzer for calibration and control procedures over a sequence of single specifically defined time periods;

prior to ~~the a single~~ specifically defined time period ~~next~~ following the single sequence of specifically defined time periods, compare the averaged calibration and control procedure demand pattern with the standard chemical solutions inventoried on-board the analyzer, thereby determining which standard chemical solutions are forecast to be exhausted before the time period ~~next~~ following the sequence of single specifically defined time periods; and,

undertaking appropriate measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of standard chemical solutions within the analyzer.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an operator identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an LIS or HIS where the analyzer is located identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate measures include displaying or issuing an alert message to an MIS identifying the type of and number of reagents forecast to be exhausted and that need to be resupplied.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the sequence of single specifically defined time periods comprises a number of 24-hour periods.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the single specifically defined time period comprises the seven different days in a week.
8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein averaging analyzing the assay pattern includes tracking reagent and calibration solution consumption along with time and date of consumption of all reagents consumed on a per reagent container, per calibration vial container, per assay, and per calibration basis.